

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 SS-15

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 AID-05 CIEP-01

OMB-01 /059 W

----- 121955

R 210300Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9232

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON NZ

SUBJECT: US-NZ ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF A) STATE 30699 B) WELLINGTON 339

1. ECON/COMM COUNSELOR INFORMALLY DISCUSSED CONTENTS PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTEL (A) WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY , MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), MR. M. NORRISH. NORRISH SAID THAT MARCH 31-APRIL 1 DATES WERE EARLIER THAN GNZ HAD IN MIND, THOUGH NO LATER DATE HAS YET BEEN DECIDED ON. EMBASSY BELIEVES GNZ WILL EVENTUALLY PROPOSE A SEPTEMBER OR OTHER AUTUMN DATE POSSIBLY LINKED WITH THE TIMING OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

2. IT APPEARS GNZ HAD NOT YET FOCUSED ON THIS YEAR'S CONSULTATION. HOWEVER IT IS EVIDENT GNZ IS NOT NOW PREPARED TO ABANDON ANNUAL TALKS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GNZ IS DISPOSED TACITLY TO ALLOW EXTENDED INTERVALS BETWEEN MEETINGS SUCH AS THAT EXPERIENCED BETWEEN LAST TWO CONSULTATIONS (OCTOBER 1972 TO FEB 1974).

3. THOUGH GNZ WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE IMPORTANT BI-LATERAL MATTERS TO DISCUSS, EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT GNZ VIEWS VALUE OF CONTINUING TALKS IN THE CASE OF THE US SOMEWHAT

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MORE FROM A PRESTIGE POINT OF VIEW. ALSO SUCH ECONOMIC

CONSULTATIONS ARE BECOMING MORE A PART OF GNZ BI-LATERAL ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR AND ITAN, TO NAME BUT TWO, PROVIDE FOR SUCH ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS OF JOINT TRADE COMMITTEES.

4. IT IS CLEAR GNZ WILL WANT TO FIELD A TOP LEVEL TEAM FROM WELLINGTON FOR TALKS WHEN THEY DO TAKE PLACE. THOUGH MFA PLAYED A LESSER ROLE IN FEB 1974 TALKS, THE GNZ DELEGATION FOR THE '75 MEETING MAY WELL INCLUDE IN ADDITION TO REPRESENTATION FROM THE DEPARTMENTS MENTINED IN REFTEL (B), ALSO A HIGH LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WELLIN00449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750061-0915
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750221/aaaaasyy.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 30699, 75 WELLINGTON 339
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-NZ ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ECON, NZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006